

PRESS RELEASE

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BRITISH MEDIEVAL SCHOLAR LADY WEDGWOOD TO LECTURE ON HISTORIC 15TH-CENTURY MANUSCRIPT

British art historian and noted medieval scholar Pamela Tudor-Craig, Lady Wedgwood, will talk about a lavishly illuminated 15th-century Flemish manuscript in the British Library, The Hours of William Lord Hastings, in a free public lecture at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Wednesday, May 4, at 5:45 pm.

A prayerbook for private devotions, with readings for specified hours of the day, the Hastings Hours, made before 1483, is the earliest surviving masterpiece by a group of illuminators who worked in Flanders between 1480 and the middle of the 16th century. This school of artists also illustrated The Cleveland Museum of Art's Hours of Queen Isabel of Spain, which dates to about 1492. Lady Wedgwood will comment on the exquisite miniature paintings of these manuscripts and the borders of the individual pages, which are decorated with minutely depicted flowers, birds, and insects, so realistically painted they appear to be three-dimensional. She will also discuss the period--one of the most dynamic in English history--in which the Hastings Hours was made, when Lord Hastings, a supporter of King Edward IV in the Wars of the Roses, was beheaded on the order of the Duke of Gloucester, later King Richard III.

Pamela Tudor-Craig, Lady Wedgwood, has served as professor of art history at the University of Evansville at Harlaxton College, England, since 1979. She received her B.A. and Ph.D. from the Courtauld Institute, the University

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of London. Teacher, author, and lecturer, she also is active on committees for the conservation of English monuments and cathedrals. Founder of an annual International Symposium on Inter-disciplinary English Medieval Studies at Harlaxton College, she often combines in her own lectures art history, literature, and theology. She has published articles and narrated programs for British radio and television on such varied subjects as Wells Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Richard III, and King Arthur's Round Table. In 1986 she co-produced for the BBC a successful series of television programs on Renaissance art entitled The Secret Life of Paintings, which was also published as a book. In America, Lady Wedgwood has lectured at the Smithsonian, Harvard University, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is married to Sir John Wedgwood, descendant of Josiah Wedgwood, the English pottery designer and manufacturer.

The public is invited to meet Lady Wedgwood at a reception immediately following her lecture.

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